

IN THE CLAIMS

1-30 (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) A television control system comprising:

a host device having a host processor, a host receiver, and a host transmitter, wherein the host processor controls the host transmitter to transmit command signals, and wherein the host processor processes confirmation signals received by the host receiver;

a plurality of dispersed televisions each having a television processor, a television receiver, and a television transmitter, wherein each television processor processes the command signals received by a corresponding television receiver so as perform a function resulting in a change of its operational status, and wherein each television processor controls a corresponding television transmitter to transmit the confirmation signals indicating performance of the functions commanded by the command signals; and,

wherein the host processor determines which televisions do not transmit the confirmation signals.

32. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein each of the command and confirmation signals comprises an infrared signal.

33. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 further including at least one peripheral device generating a request signal, wherein the host device is responsive to the request signal.

34. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 33 wherein the peripheral device comprises a video cassette recorder.

35. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 33 wherein the peripheral device comprises a digital video disc player.

36. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein the host device comprises a personal computer.

37. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein the host device comprises a television remote control unit.

38. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein each of the televisions further includes a timer, and wherein the television processor of each of the televisions is responsive to a corresponding one of the timers to cause a corresponding one of the television transmitters to transmit the confirmation signal within about 100 milliseconds to about 500 milliseconds after a function commanded by one of the command signals is performed.

39. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein each of the confirmation signals comprises a 1200 baud, 8-bit byte, 1 start bit, 1 stop bit, no parity format packet modulated onto a 40 kHz carrier wave.

40. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 39 wherein the packet includes a command identifier byte, a data value byte, and a checksum byte.

41. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein the host processor is arranged to generate an error signal in the event that a confirmation signal is not received by the host receiver from at least one of the televisions.

42. (previously presented) A television signal transmission method comprising:

transmitting a command signal from a host device to each of a plurality of dispersed televisions directing the televisions to perform a function resulting in a change of their operational status;

receiving at the host device confirmation signals from the plurality of televisions, wherein each of the confirmation signals indicates that a corresponding one of the televisions has performed the function; and,

determining at the host device which of the televisions fails to transmit a confirmation signal.

43. (previously presented) The television signal transmission method of claim 42 wherein the command signal and the confirmation signals comprise corresponding infrared signals.

44. (previously presented) The television signal transmission method of claim 42 wherein each of the confirmation signals comprises a 1200 baud, 8-bit byte, 1 start bit, 1 stop bit, no parity format packet modulated onto a 40 kHz carrier wave.

45. (previously presented) The television signal transmission method of claim 44 wherein the packet includes a command identifier byte, a data value byte, and a checksum byte.

46. (previously presented) The television signal transmission method of claim 42 wherein the determining at the host device a failure to receive a confirmation signal from one or more of the televisions comprises generating an error signal at the host device in the event that a confirmation signal is not received from one or more of the televisions.

47. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein each of the televisions further includes a timer, wherein the television processor of each of the televisions is responsive to a corresponding one of the timers to cause a corresponding one of the television transmitters to transmit a corresponding one of the confirmation signals a corresponding amount of time after a function commanded by one of the command signals is performed, and wherein the host processor uses the times of the confirmation signals to determine which televisions have not transmitted a confirmation signal.

48. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein each of the confirmation signals indicates a change between the on and off status of the corresponding television.

49. (previously presented) The television control system of claim 31 wherein each of the confirmation signals indicates a change in channel of the corresponding television.

50. (previously presented) The television signal transmission method of claim 42 wherein each of the confirmation signals indicates a change between the on and off status of the corresponding television.

51. (previously presented) The television signal transmission method of claim 42 wherein each of the confirmation signals indicates a change in channel of the corresponding television.